

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given to the present application.

Claims 1-7 are now present in this application. Claims 1 and 4 are independent. Claims 1-7 have been amended. Claims 8-16 have been canceled.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

ELECTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has made the Election of Species Requirement final. Applicants have canceled non-elected claims 8-16. Therefore, the Election of Species Requirement has been rendered moot. Applicants reserve the right to file a division application directed to the non-elected invention at a later date, if so desired.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner has objected to Figure 11 for having different elements being referred to by reference numeral 51. To correct this error, Applicants submit herewith a corrected formal drawing, wherein reference numeral 51 (referring to a leftmost box) has been relabeled to be --54--.

SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has pointed out instances in the specification, which need revision. Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful review of the specification.

The instances pointed out by the Examiner have been corrected. Moreover, Applicants have taken the opportunity to review the specification and correct several other informalities in the specification.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 4 and 7 for several grammatical informalities. Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful review of the claims.

The instances pointed out by the Examiner have been corrected. Moreover, Applicants have taken the opportunity to review the claims and correct several other informalities. For example, the word "hose" in claim 2 has been corrected to read --host--. Also, in claims 1 and 4, line 1, the word "reproducing" has been changed to "reading" to be more consistent with the bodies of the claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner noted that claims 1 and 4 refer to a “servo unit,” whereas the specification referred to a “transport unit.” Therefore, the claims did not correspond to the specification and there was a failing to meet the written description requirement.

Applicants have amended the claims by changing the term “servo unit” to -transport unit-. Therefore, it is respectfully asserted that this rejection has been rendered moot.

DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

Claims 4-7 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over the claims of U.S. Patent 6,757,240. Claims 1-3 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of U.S. Patent 6,757,240 in view of U.S. Patent Shigematsu et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer directed to U.S. Patent 6,757,240. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections have been rendered moot.

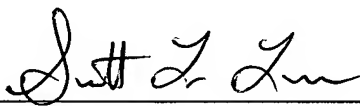
CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Replacement Sheet for Figure 11
Terminal Disclaimer

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is one (1) sheet of corrected drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected drawings incorporate the following drawing changes:

Figure 11 has been amended to change reference number "51" to --54--.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.